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Letter dated 31 July 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward herewith a letter dated 31 July 2014 from the Special Representative of the National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces to the United Nations concerning the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014) on the humanitarian situation in Syria (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Y. Halit **Çevik**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 31 July 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the people of Syria and the National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces (Syrian National Coalition), it is my grave responsibility to draw to your attention the Syrian regime's persistent violations of international humanitarian law and its refusal to implement Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014).

Since the fourth briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator to the Security Council, on 26 June 2014, Syrian regime forces have perpetrated some of their most brutal and barbaric war crimes to date. As a result, the holy month of Ramadan emerged as one of the deadliest months in Syria.

As illustrated in enclosure 1 below, the Syrian regime has significantly ramped up its efforts to inflict deadly aerial assaults on civilian targets, in violation of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014). In Aleppo alone, regime-inflicted barrel bombs accounted for dozens of damage sites, with the vast majority targeted at residential districts. A little over a week ago, on 22 July 2014, a regime aerial raid on Aleppo took the lives of six innocent children — three boys and three girls — all members of a single family.

In spite of the explicit demand by the Security Council that all parties respect the principle of medical neutrality and protect medical facilities, personnel and equipment, the Syrian regime continued to deny life-saving supplies to thousands of Syrians in need. In July 2014 alone, regime forces launched numerous strikes against Syrian hospitals, including Aleppo's Deir Hafer dispensary, the Dakkak hospital and the Al Ikhlas medical centre. In direct violation of Council resolution 2139 (2014), regime personnel continued to remove medicine, including antibiotics, from convoys directed to hard-to-reach areas. According to the Secretary-General, these illegal tactics were implemented by the Syrian regime as a matter of policy (see S/2014/427).

The Syrian regime also continued to deny humanitarian access to the 10.8 million Syrians in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. Five months after the adoption of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014), 4.6 million Syrians remain trapped in hard- and impossible-to-reach areas owing to the Syrian regime's refusal to provide universal access to all Syrians in need.

While the Syrian National Coalition strongly welcomed the unanimous adoption of Security Council resolution 2165 (2014) on 14 July 2014, that resolution should never have proved necessary. The Syrian regime has a legal obligation to provide Syrian citizens in need with access to humanitarian assistance, irrespective of their religion, politics or ethnicity. That resolution 2165 (2014) was needed to stop the starvation of innocent civilians is a shameful indictment of the Syrian regime's disregard for human life and contempt for international law.

The Syrian regime's violations of international law stand in contrast to the efforts of the Syrian National Coalition to implement Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014). Throughout the past month, we have succeeded in delivering aid to thousands of Syrians across the liberated territories. Our interim

government has made impressive progress in serving the needs of our people, including by establishing electrical generators, reconnecting telephone lines and overseeing educational services to ensure that thousands of Syrian children get the education they deserve.

Efforts undertaken to ensure the full implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014) include the following:

(a) **Delivered food and resources to Syrians in need.** As required in paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014), the Syrian National Coalition's interim government worked with the Assistance Coordination Unit to distribute 50,000 food parcels in Aleppo, Idlib, Hama and Ladhiqiyah. Each parcel contained nine basic materials and weighed 40 kg, enough to last a family throughout the month of Ramadan. The Syrian National Coalition's interim government also launched a project to establish a well in the towns of Salloum Qasimia and Brive in the western region of Aanjarh. Once functional, the wells are expected to provide water to 8,000 Syrians;

(b) **Facilitated humanitarian access across borders and conflict lines.** As required in paragraph 2 of Security Council resolution 2165 (2014) and paragraph 6 of Council resolution 2139 (2014), the Syrian National Coalition and the Free Syrian Army worked hard to facilitate humanitarian access through the border crossings under their control, including through the Bab al-Salam and Bab al-Hawa crossings with Turkey. Immediately following the adoption of Council resolution 2165 (2014), we announced our readiness to cooperate with the United Nations and its humanitarian agencies and to provide security in the territories under our control. Unfortunately, the negotiation of safe passage at key border crossings continues to be negotiated on an ad hoc basis, without sufficient inclusion of the Syrian National Coalition and the Supreme Military Command of the Free Syrian Army. Moving forward, it is imperative that the United Nations and its agencies coordinate directly with our representatives, so as to ensure greater efficiency in the delivery of cross-border aid;

(c) **Delivered medicine to Syrians in need.** In an effort to uphold paragraph 8 of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014), the Syrian National Coalition's interim Ministry of Health and the Assistance Coordination Unit focused on the treatment of diseases in the liberated areas. In July, the Ministry of Health delivered treatments for skin diseases to the coastal areas of Syria, and the Assistance Coordination Unit, in collaboration with other groups, is preparing the seventh round of polio vaccinations to be distributed in the liberated and besieged areas starting 2 August. The Assistance Coordination Unit is continuing to work on the measles campaign, which will be launched in August 2014 and will provide vaccinations to millions of Syrians. Owing to the high levels of water contamination, the Unit is preparing an awareness campaign on typhoid fever for areas besieged by the Syrian regime and is also preparing to activate the Early Warning and Response Network system in Rif Dimashq to document suspected cases of epidemic diseases;

(d) **Condemned the recruitment of child soldiers.** As required in paragraph 2 of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014), the Syrian National Coalition and the Free Syrian Army worked to uphold human rights and international human rights law. In June 2014, the Syrian National Coalition and the Free Syrian Army jointly adopted the Communiqué to end and to prevent the recruitment and use of children

(see enclosure 2 below), in which we resolutely condemned any recruitment and use of children within our ranks and committed to taking all steps necessary to ensure that no child is recruited or used within our forces. To ensure that our stated commitments were adhered to, the Free Syrian Army instituted clear policies and orders prohibiting the recruitment and use of children in combat and auxiliary roles, and trained its ranks in the tenets of international humanitarian law, including the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict;

(e) **Rejected terrorism and combated extremists.** As demanded in paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014), the Free Syrian Army continued its efforts to combat extremist and terrorist groups in Syria. On 27 June, the Free Syrian Army established an operations centre in the province of Deir ez-Zor, with the goal of stopping the Islamic State forces from gaining a stronghold in the province and terrorizing the local population. Also in late June, the Free Syrian Army defeated Hizbullah, an internationally designated terrorist group, in Morek and successfully tackled the Islamic State in Jobar, Damascus. The Free Syrian Army persists in fighting the Islamic State in Rif Raqqa. Our commitment to defeating terrorism underlines the clear distinction between Syria's moderate armed forces, represented by the Free Syrian Army, and extremist, terrorist groups like the Islamic State and Jahbat al-Nusra, to which we bear no relation. It remains critical that the Security Council and the Secretary-General recognize fully this distinction and adhere to the classificatory system introduced by the independent international commission of inquiry in its seventh report on the situation of human rights in Syria issued on 12 February 2014 (see paragraph 16 of A/HRC/25/65). Too often, non-State armed groups are erroneously labelled as armed opposition groups, when in fact groups like the Islamic State benefit from a close tactical and financial alliance with the Syrian regime and share no common ground with Syria's moderate opposition. Our commitment to defeating terrorist groups like the Islamic State remains among our chief priorities. Regrettably, however, a lack of adequate resources to Syria's moderate opposition continues to hinder our ability to successfully expel the Islamic State and establish the foundations for a free and democratic Syria;

(f) **Welcomed the appointment of the new United Nations Special Envoy for Syria.** The Syrian National Coalition continued to press for a political solution to the Syrian conflict, as stipulated in paragraph 15 of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014). In July, the Syrian National Coalition welcomed the appointment of Staffan de Mistura as Special Envoy for Syria and Ramzy Ezzeldine Ramzy as Deputy Special Envoy for Syria. We look forward to engaging closely with the Special Envoy and his team as we work to end the violence in Syria and implement the Geneva Communiqué.

Thanks to the unanimous adoption by the Security Council of its resolution 2165 (2014) on 24 July 2014, the first convoy of trucks successfully crossed into Syria from the Turkish crossing at Bab al-Salam. The Syrian National Coalition is pleased to note that this is only the beginning. If implemented in full, Council resolution 2165 (2014) will enable the delivery of humanitarian assistance to 2.9 million people, without the consent of the Syrian regime. This is an important development. However, even if the resolution is fully implemented, millions of Syrians will continue to remain outside the reach of the United Nations, trapped in hard- and impossible-to-reach areas. Far too many people will thus continue to

suffer needlessly from starvation, malnourishment and disease because the Syrian regime refuses to fulfil its legal and moral commitments. This is an outrage that the international community cannot accept.

Security Council resolution 2139 (2014) mandates that the Syrian regime allow aid to reach all Syrians in need. If the will of the Council is to be respected and the needs of all Syrians are to be met, then it is imperative that the United Nations take further action to ensure that aid reaches those who need it. As the Syrian National Coalition and the Free Syrian Army have repeatedly stated, we stand ready to facilitate access to all areas under our control, including beyond the four border crossings listed in resolution 2165 (2014). As the United Nations and its implementing partners work to deliver aid through Iraq, Jordan and Turkey, we urge the Security Council to ensure that the United Nations and its agencies work directly with Syrian National Coalition representatives so that aid reaches those in need in a timely and safe manner.

We further urge the United Nations to ensure the full implementation of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014). Beyond cross-border humanitarian delivery, resolution 2139 (2014) demands the cessation of indiscriminate warfare, including the use of barrel bombs, the lifting of sieges, the protection of medical and civilian facilities, and the end to arbitrary detention, imprisonment and forced disappearances. Five months following the adoption of the resolution, the Syrian regime has only escalated its violence, resulting in more Syrian deaths, displacement and destruction. As directed in paragraph 17 of the resolution, the United Nations must take further steps to halt the ongoing violations. Syrians deserve to live in safety, security and health.

(*Signed*) Najib **Ghadbian**
Special Representative of the National Coalition
of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces
to the United Nations

Enclosure 1

Non-compliance by the Syrian regime with Security Council resolution 2139 (2014)

(i) **Paragraph 3**: All parties immediately cease all attacks against civilians and the indiscriminate employment of weapons in populated areas.

Violation: Dar'a camp massacre

- On 16 July 2014, the Syrian regime's air force dropped barrel bombs on an internally displaced persons camp in Dar'a, resulting in the deaths and injuries of civilian men, women and children. While the bodies of those killed have not all been identified, the following individuals have been identified:

  1. Khaloud Mohammad al-Bardan, female, 35 years old, from Dar'a-Tafas
  2. Monaf Abdulnaser Assaf al-Masri, male, 19 years old, from Dar'a
  3. Wife of Yousef Othman (name unknown), female, from Dar'a
  4. Amani Mohammad Ammara, female, 19 years old, from Qunaitra
  5. Mohammad Saa'd Ammara, male, five years old, from Qunaitra
  6. Jamila Othman, female, of Palestinian descent
  7. Marah Waseem Mtaer, female, child of Palestinian descent
  8. Hamza Waseem Mtaer, male, of Palestinian descent
  9. Yousef Outhman, male, of Palestinian descent
  10. Ayman Adel Taqwa, male, of Palestinian descent

Violation: Zabdin massacre

- On 24 July 2014, the Syrian regime launched a surface-to-surface missile at Zabdin city in eastern Ghouta, targeting a residential building. Seventeen of the residents in the building were killed and many others were injured, all civilians. The majority of those killed and injured were internally displaced Syrians originally from Mleeha in Rif Dimashq.

- Those killed include: (1) Walaa al-Dumani, four-year-old female child, internally displaced from Mleeha; (2) Muhammad al-Dumani, eight-year-old male child, brother of Walaa and internally displaced from Mleeha; (3) Rabee al-Dumani, 30 years old, father of Walaa and Muhammad, internally displaced from Mleeha; (4) Alaa Qasim, from Zabdin; (5) Murwan al-Taweel, from Zabdin; (6) Ahmad Zuhair al-Khateeb, internally displaced from Mleeha; (7) Ahmad Ibrahim al-Khateeb, internally displaced from Mleeha; (8) Muhammad al-Burazi, from Zabdin; (9) Muhammad Mutawi', child, from Zabdin; (10) Abu al-Khair al-Juju, from Zabdin; (11) Yusuf al-Sawda, from Zabdin; (12) Nur al-Sawda, brother of Yusuf al-Sawda, from Zabdin; (13) Abood al-Abd, internally displaced from Hatitah al-Jarsh; (14) crippled martyr (name unknown), internally displaced from Mleeha; (15) child martyr (name unknown), internally displaced from Daraya; (16) unknown martyr, internally displaced from Huran al-Awameed; (17) Ibrahim al-Buni, from Zabdin.

Violation: Use by the Syrian regime of barrel bombs and indiscriminate weapons

– The Syrian regime continued to drop indiscriminate barrel bombs and aerial munitions on Aleppo, killing and injuring civilians, including women and children. On 22 July 2014, the Syrian regime's air force killed six children — three boys and three girls — from the Moslem family, in Wahshiyeh in Aleppo province.

– Also on 22 July 2014, the Syrian regime's air force killed a 15-year-old child in an air raid on Latamneh in Hama province, a seven-year-old girl in Jisr al-Shughur in Idlib province and a six-year-old girl in Deir ez-Zor.

Violation: Use by the Syrian regime of chlorine gas

– The Syrian regime has used poisonous chlorine gas 27 times since the Security Council adopted its resolution 2118 (2013) on 27 September 2013, resulting in the deaths of 35 persons, including 8 children and 4 women, and the injury of over 920 others.

– Most recently, on 17 July 2014, the Syrian regime's air force again dropped barrel bombs carrying poisonous chlorine gas on Kafr Zeta in Rif Hama, killing Mustafa Abdul Rahman Hamwiyah.

(ii) **Paragraphs 8 and 10**: All parties must immediately cease attacks against medical facilities and other civilian objects, as well as medical personnel, and prioritize the fullest possible medical attention for those in need.

Violation: Attacks by the Syrian regime on medical facilities and medical staff

– During the reporting period, the regime attacked multiple medical facilities using indiscriminate barrel bombs and targeted missiles, resulting in severe damage to the facilities and deaths and injuries to the medical staff, patients and innocent civilians.

– On 23 June 2014, Syrian regime air forces dropped barrel bombs on the Red Crescent hospital in the Sakhoor neighbourhood in Aleppo city, resulting in the destruction of the hospital. Owing to the severe damage, the hospital can no longer operate despite being the main therapeutic hospital in Aleppo city. The Syrian regime again targeted the hospital with barrel bombs the following day.

– On 26 June 2014, Syrian regime warplanes launched targeted missiles at the city of Jisreen in eastern Ghouta, killing an entire family of internally displaced Syrians originally from Mleeha: (1) Mariam al-Amory, 65 years old; (2) Miyada Sleek, 30 years old; (3) Raghad Hateetani, two years old; (4) Suzanna Hateetani, 10 years old. Those injured in the attack were sent to a field hospital in Jisreen. Following the transfer of the injured to the field hospital, regime warplanes directly targeted and destroyed the field hospital. Many in the medical staff were gravely injured.

– On 26 June 2014, the Syrian regime's air force dropped barrel bombs near the Said Bin Muath clinic in the Bab neighbourhood in Aleppo city. The clinic was greatly damaged.

– On 30 June 2014, after the start of the Islamic month of Ramadan, the Syrian regime's air force dropped barrel bombs on the Orient hospital in Kafranbel in Idlib province at sunset (the time of the breaking of the fast). The barrel bombs

greatly damaged the hospital and caused three deaths: (1) Dr. Mahmoudal-Ibrahim, a surgeon at the Orient hospital; (2) Said al-Mousa, operation technician at the Orient hospital; and (3) a newborn baby, who was only three days old.

- On 1 July 2014, the Syrian regime's air force dropped barrel bombs on a medical dispensary in Deir Hafer in Idlib province at midnight, causing massive destruction to the dispensary. The dispensary can no longer operate owing to the destruction.

- On 9 July 2014, the Syrian regime's air force dropped two barrel bombs on the Dakkak hospital in Aleppo city, which caused major destruction to the hospital and resulted in both deaths and injuries to civilians. The hospital can no longer operate owing to the destruction.

- On 13 July 2014, the Syrian regime's air force dropped two barrel bombs near the Al Ikhlas medical centre in the Al Sakhour neighbourhood in the city of Aleppo, which heavily damaged the medical centre and forced it out of operation.

- On 16 July 2014, the Syrian regime's air force dropped barrel bombs on the city of Kansafrah in Rif Idlib, damaging multiple medical facilities, including the Al Amal hospital for orthopaedic and arthritis surgery, the Al Amal Gynaecology and Paediatrics hospital and the Kiwan hospital. The bombing caused major damage to the medical facilities, forcing it to stop service, and caused injuries to members of the medical staff.

- On 17 July 2014, the Syrian regime's air force dropped barrel bombs containing chlorine gas on the field hospital in Kafr Zita in Rif Hama, damaging the hospital and forcing it out of operation. The bombing killed Mustafa Abdul Rahman Hamwiyah.

- On 19 July 2014, a car bomb went off outside the Yaman hospital in Douma in Rif Dimashq, fully destroying the hospital and killing 11 persons, injuring 150 others and destroying 15 residences. It remains unknown whether the Syrian regime or the Islamic State is responsible for the car bomb. While the identities of those killed have not been fully accounted for, those known to date are: (1) Rama Ali Sabhiya (Umm Ahmad Subhiya), mother of three children; (2) Abdulrahman Waleed al-Rays, male child; (3) Ibrahim Amr al-Daj, male child; (4) Muhammad Khalid Burghsh, male child; (5) Muneer Mahmoud al-Jirudi, male; (6) Muayid Muneer al-Jirudi, the son of Muneer al-Jirudi, male child; (7) Anas Barbor, male child; (8) Bashar Yahya (al-Sufi), male; (9) Muhammad Ratib Maataz al-Munsi, male child; (10) Abdulrahman Faris al-Barghsh, male; (11) Muhammad Tamir Mustafa Barboor, male child.

- On 22 July 2014, Syrian regime warplanes dropped barrel bombs on the field hospital in Bab in Rif Aleppo, causing damage to the hospital.

(iii) **Paragraphs 5 to 7**: All parties must immediately lift the sieges of populated areas and allow unrestricted delivery of humanitarian aid. All parties must promptly allow United Nations humanitarian agencies and partners safe and unhindered access to populations in need.

Violation: Sieges by the Syrian regime in eastern Ghouta, Daraya, Yarmouk, Hajr al-Aswad and Moadamiyet al-Sham

– The Syrian regime continues its complete siege of eastern Ghouta, Daraya, Yarmouk, Hajr al-Aswad and Moadamiyet al-Sham. The regime is preventing the movement of civilians and life-saving aid such as food, medicine, baby milk, medical goods and fuel in or out of these besieged areas. The regime is preventing any agency and humanitarian organization from entering these areas and continues to bombard these areas on a daily basis using a wide array of munitions, including missiles and barrel bombs.

– The number of individuals besieged in these areas are:

  • Daraya: 7,000 individuals

  • Moadamiyet al-Sham: 20,000 individuals

  • Yarmouk and Hajr al-Aswad: 40,000 individuals

  • Eastern Ghouta: 400,000 individuals

– Owing to the siege, the price of food has increased in the besieged areas. The lack of baby milk and infant medicine has resulted in infant malnutrition and death. The medical office in eastern Ghouta in Al Marj has documented many cases of malnutrition, including the case of a 40-day-old baby who is suffering from malnutrition, documented on 17 July 2014.

(iv) **Paragraph 6**: All parties must promptly allow rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian access for United Nations humanitarian agencies and their implementing partners, including across conflict lines and across borders, in order to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches people in need through the most direct routes.

– During the reporting period, the Syrian regime continued to deny the United Nations and its humanitarian aid agencies access across conflict lines and across borders, as a result of which 4.7 million Syrians remained in desperate want of food, water and medicine, trapped in hard- and impossible-to-reach areas.

– Rather than work to facilitate access to Syrians in need, as required in Security Council resolution 2139 (2014), the Syrian regime instead argued against the provision of humanitarian access across borders (see S/2014/426) and instituted administrative procedures deliberately designed to impede passage at checkpoints and slow the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Enclosure 2

Communiqué to end and to prevent the recruitment and use of children

National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces and the Supreme Military Command of the Free Syrian Army

June 2014

1. The National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces and the Supreme Military Command of the Free Syrian Army are gravely concerned by the recruitment and use of children in the Syrian conflict. The Syrian National Coalition and the Free Syrian Army have previously expressed their willingness to commit to ending this grave violation in accordance with Security Council resolution 1612 (2005):

(a) Accepting that a child associated with an armed force or armed group refers to any person below 18 years of age who is, or who has been, recruited or used by an armed force or armed group in any capacity, including but not limited to children used as fighters, cooks, porters, spies or for sexual purposes;

(b) Taking into account that the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict prohibits the use of children under the age of 18 years; noting also that recruiting and using children under the age of 15 years is prohibited under international humanitarian law and may be defined as a war crime under the Geneva Convention.

2. The Syrian National Coalition and the Supreme Military Command strongly condemn any recruitment and use of children within the ranks of the Free Syrian Army and will not tolerate such action by any party to the conflict. We are committed to taking all steps necessary to ensure that no child is recruited or used within our forces and to hold all perpetrators accountable.

3. The Syrian National Coalition and the Free Syrian Army stand ready to engage with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to express our full commitment and to take action and enter into an action plan with the United Nations in this regard.

4. In accordance with Security Council resolutions 1612 (2005), 1882 (2009), 1998 (2011), 2068 (2012) and 2143 (2014), we pledge to:

(a) Ensure that command orders are issued to Free Syrian Army units, that no child is recruited or used, and that any violation of this order will entail disciplinary measures in line with due process and human rights principles;

(b) Take any other practical measures as identified in cooperation with the United Nations and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and engage in a dialogue on an action plan;

(c) Implement accountability measures and ensure timely investigation of all violations, in this regard;

(d) Designate high-level political and military representatives to cooperate with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the United Nations to ensure full implementation of this communiqué.

5. In the light of our commitment to do our utmost to protect the children of Syria, we, the Syrian National Coalition and the Supreme Military Command will undertake our good offices with other opposition groups listed in the annual report of the Secretary-General, as relevant.

6. In order to provide maximum protection for Syria's children, we, the Syrian Coalition and the Supreme Military Command, hereby express our intention to enter into dialogue with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to adopt binding measures to put an end to any military use of schools and hospitals in accordance with Security Council resolution 1998 (2011). We previously called for an immediate demilitarization of schools and hospitals in a communiqué dated 30 April 2014. In accordance with the communiqué, we condemn the deliberate targeting of hospitals and schools and their occupation by military forces.

(*Signed*) Hadi **al-Bahra**
President
National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces

(*Signed*) Abdulelah **al-Bashir**
Chief of Staff
Supreme Military Command